



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
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Enclosure 6a1
October 20, 2020

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *A. Infante-Green*

RE: **Beacon Charter School – Approval of Charter Renewal Recommendation**

Rhode Island General Law 16-77-5.1(b) designates the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (the Council) as the authorizer for charter schools. In this capacity, the Council is responsible for charter school approval, renewal and revocation. RIDE is delegated with the authority and responsibility to manage a comprehensive system of charter school accountability, review, monitoring, and system management. With the support of RIDE's charter team, the Council plays a fundamental role in maintaining and advancing the quality and accountability of the charter sector.

RIDE has developed the charter performance framework that is based on Rhode Island's lessons learned and national best practice of charter school authorizing to inform charter renewal decisions. This process has brought clarity on each charter's performance annually, and ensured that renewal decisions prioritize each school's academic performance.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education move to extend the charter of Beacon Charter School, expiring at the end of school year 2022-23.

Enclosed Documents:

The following documents provide further detail regarding the Commissioner's recommendation and analysis contributing to that recommendation:

- Commissioner's Recommendation Overview: including an overview of the charter.
- Annual Performance Dashboards: containing detail on performance ratings for each school and each year of the charter's term.



Beacon Charter School

Overview of Commissioner's Charter Renewal Recommendation

Recommendation: 2-Year Extension

Charter Overview:

Current Charter Overview			
Charter Type	Independent	2018-19 Grades Served	6-8 and 9-12
School-Year Opened	2003-2004	2018-19 Enrollment	368
Current Charter Term	2018/19- 2020/21	Authorized Enrollment	399 (grades 6-12)
Enrolling Communities	Statewide	Location(s)	Woonsocket

School Mission and Model	
School Mission:	"Beacon Charter School for the Arts develops artistic thinkers by nurturing self-expression while preparing our graduates with the academic skills necessary for sustained postsecondary success."
School Model:	Beacon Charter School is an independent network charter that consists of two schools: Beacon Charter High School and Beacon Founders Academy. Beacon Charter School opened in the fall of 2003, and the charter was granted an expansion to open Founders Academy in 2015-16, beginning with grade 6. Beacon Charter is one of the only charter arts programs in the state of Rhode Island. Students self-select course programs that include culinary arts, performing arts and visual arts. Each course program forms small group learning environments that are geared toward individualized learning opportunities. Both schools seek to blend the arts with common core standards and 21st century skills to prepare students for college and beyond. 21st century skills are emphasized through project-based approaches that promote development of problem solving skills and critical thinking.

Overview of Charter Performance Ratings:

The following table depicts the charter's performance according to the Charter Performance Review System. For more detail on performance ratings, please see the charter's renewal report and annual performance dashboards.

Current Performance Ratings: Beacon Charter High School					
Indicators		SY16-17	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20
Academic	(1A) School Performance	M	DNM	A	NA
	(1B) School Comparison	NR	DNM	A	NA
Sustainability	(1) Financial	M	M	M	M
	(2) Organizational	A	M	M	E
	(3) Compliance	A	A	M	TBD



Beacon Charter School

Overview of Commissioner's Charter Renewal Recommendation

Recommendation: 2-Year Extension

Current Performance Ratings: Beacon Charter School- Founders Academy					
Indicators		SY16-17	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20
Academic	(1A) School Performance	M	A	DNM	NA
	(1B) School Comparison	NR	A	DNM	NA
Sustainability	(1) Financial	M	M	M	M
	(2) Organizational	A	M	M	E
	(3) Compliance	A	A	M	TBD

Ratings Key			
E	Exceeds Expectations	DNM	Does Not Meet Expectations
M	Meets Expectations	NR	Not Rated
A	Approaches Expectations	NA	Not Applicable